REMARKS

Claim 13 has been amended. Claim 20 has been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and in other applications.

Claims 13-17, 21-22, and 63-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over alleged AAPA (prior art in US 2005/0080951) in view of Vorbach (PCT/EP02/02403). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 recites "a first buffer having a first programmable buffer stage depth comprising a first number of buffer stages" and "a second buffer having a second programmable buffer stage depth comprising a second number of buffer stages." According to claim 13, "when the first number of buffer stages is greater than zero, the first buffer is coupled to said first device for receiving said outputted request signal and when the first number of buffer stages is zero, the first buffer is not coupled to said first device and does not receive said outputted request signal." Moreover, "when the second number of buffer stages is greater than zero, the second buffer is coupled to said first device for receiving said second reply signal and when the second number of buffer stages is zero, the second buffer is not coupled to said first device and does not receive said second reply signal." Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 13.

Applicant notes that the Office Action admits that the AAPA fails to disclose "a first buffer having a first programmable buffer stage depth comprising a first number of buffer stages" and "a second buffer having a second programmable buffer stage depth comprising a second number of buffer stages." Office Action at 2-3. Absent this teaching, the AAPA must also fail to teach or suggest that "when the first number of buffer stages is greater than zero, the first buffer is coupled to said first device for receiving said outputted request signal and when the first number of buffer stages is zero, the first buffer is not coupled to said first device and does not receive said outputted request signal" and "when the second number of buffer stages is greater than zero, the second buffer is coupled to said first device for receiving said second reply signal and when the

second number of buffer stages is zero, the second buffer is not coupled to said first device and does not receive said second reply signal."

Applicant respectfully submits that Vorbach fails to teach or suggest these limitations as well. As set out in the Office Action, Vorbach teaches the use of FIFOs having adjustable latencies. Vorbach ¶ [0114]. Vorbach also teaches cascading FIFO stages to form FIFOs of any desired length. Vorbach ¶ [0117]. Vorbach, however, fails to teach or suggest bypassing a FIFO when its programmable latency is set to zero. This feature is simply not taught by Vorbach. As such, Vorbach must fail to teach or suggest the claimed first buffer because nothing in Vorbach teaches or suggest that "when the first number of buffer stages is greater than zero, the first buffer is coupled to said first device for receiving said outputted request signal and when the first number of buffer stages is zero, the first buffer is not coupled to said first device and does not receive said outputted request signal." Likewise, Vorbach must also fail to teach or suggest the claimed second buffer because nothing in Vorbach teaches or suggest that "when the second number of buffer stages is greater than zero, the second buffer is coupled to said first device for receiving said second reply signal and when the second number of buffer stages is zero, the second buffer is not coupled to said first device and does not receive said second reply signal." There is simply no disclosure in Vorbach that teaches these limitations.

Accordingly, claims 13-17, 21-22, and 63-64 are allowable over the cited combination. The rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Vorbach and Jander (US 5,956,492). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 has been canceled.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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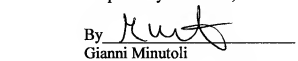
Respectfully submitted,

By 

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